

Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors

STATEMENT

NO EMBARGO

GSOC call – ‘absolutely disgraceful’ – AGSI

The call by the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) for ‘minor complaints against gardaí’ to be dealt with by An Garda Síochána is absolutely disgraceful, according to the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors (AGSI).

“We would like to remind GSOC of the primary reason for their establishment in the first place and that was to get away from the criticism of ‘guards investigating guards’ that was a regular feature of the old complaints system,” said the Deputy General Secretary of AGSI, John Redmond. “It would appear from this latest statement that GSOC want to move away from what they regard as trivial complaints and concentrate only on the headline-making major issues.”

AGSI feels that the statement by GSOC betrayed a mindset that they were ‘too important’ to deal with minor complaints by the public, continued Mr Redmond. “It is a fact that the vast majority of complaints are of a minor nature – but trivial or serious they are all important to the people making them and they should all be treated with the respect they deserve. It is disgraceful that GSOC now appears to want to run away from the vast majority of their work.”

AGSI calls for every complaint to be dealt with objectively and with fairness to all parties and by an independent outside body, leaving gardaí to concentrate on their primary work of protecting the public and property and investigating crime. “I note that Mr Simon O’Brien, the chairman of GSOC and a former officer of the London Metropolitan Police, cites his experience of the British police. I will remind Mr O’Brien that in Ireland we have a far higher rating of respect from the public and our crime clear-up rates are also far higher than that of the Met and of most, if not all, British forces,” concluded Mr Redmond.

ENDS

Further information from John Redmond at 087 246 4228 or Austin Kenny at 087 2418155